

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Previously Presented) An electronic lock for a locking system, in particular electronic ignition lock for a motor vehicle, comprising:  
a holder into which an associated electronic key can be introduced, and having a switching element which can be actuated by introduction of the key into the holder and that produces a key inserted signal in the process, the key, which when in the holder, exchanges at least one coded operating signal with the lock, with the result that after positive evaluation of the operating signal the release of the lock for movement of the holder by means of the key into at least one actuating position can be triggered, wherein a blocking element, which executes an adjusting movement on introduction of the key into the holder or removal of the key from the holder, interacts with the holder in such a manner that the movement of the holder additionally to its release is made possible only when the key is correctly in the holder, wherein a separate transmitting means for the adjusting movement of the blocking element can be brought into operative connection with the blocking element at one end and with the switching element at the other end, and wherein the adjusting movement of the blocking element causes the transmitting means to exert a switching action on the switching element.
  2. (Currently Amended) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blocking element is designed in the manner of a mechanical blocking slide, wherein the blocking slide is ~~preferably~~ mounted movably on the holder or in the immediate vicinity of the holder, and wherein furthermore the blocking slide ~~preferably~~ can be brought by means of the key into or out of operative connection with a groove in the housing of the lock for additional blocking or release of the movement of the holder.
  3. (Previously Presented) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blocking element is subjected to a force, in particular a spring force, in the direction of a groove in the housing of the lock in such a manner that when the key is outside the holder or when it is not correctly in the holder, the blocking element protrudes into the groove, and wherein when the key is correctly in the holder the blocking element is secured outside the groove by the key.

4. (Previously Presented) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein an extension on the housing of the key acts on the blocking element so as to bring about its adjusting movement or for its securing.

5. (Previously Presented) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitting means comprises a lever which is arranged between the blocking element and the switching element, the blocking element acting on one end of the lever, with the result that the lever can be moved by the adjusting movement of the blocking element, and wherein the other end of the lever acts on the actuating member of the switching element, with the result that during the adjusting movement of the blocking element the lever moves the actuating member in order to exert a switching action on the switching element.

B 6. (Currently Amended) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blocking element is designed as a spring-loaded, opposed pair of slides, wherein a cam on the blocking slide, in particular on one blocking slide of the pair of slides, preferably acts on one end of a lever which is arranged between the blocking element and switching element, and wherein furthermore a groove within the housing in the lock is preferably configured in the region of the cam as an opening, with the result that one end of the lever protrudes into the groove on that side of the groove which lies opposite the blocking element.

7. (Currently Amended) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switching element comprises an electric switch, in particular a push-button switch designed in the manner of a break contact element, wherein the switching element is preferably provided with a fully enclosed housing, and wherein furthermore the switching element is preferably fastened on a printed circuit board arranged at a distance from the holder, the switching element in particular being designed in the manner of an SMD (surface mounted device) component, with the result that the switching element can be fastened by its connections on the printed circuit board using SMD technology.

8. (Currently Amended) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder is designed as an element which can be moved rotationally or translationally by means of the key,

in particular as a rotatable rotor, it being possible for a rotary catch to be brought into and out of interaction with the rotor in order to block or release the rotor, wherein the released rotor, on rotation into the actuating position, preferably interacts with further switching elements, which are in the immediate vicinity of the rotor, in the manner of a load-break switch, ~~for example~~ via a cam controlling means, and wherein furthermore the blocking element is preferably mounted movably on or in the rotor:

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9. (Previously Presented) The electronic lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the actuating position of the holder an additional blocking slide is in operative connection with the electronic key in such a manner that removal of the key from the holder is prevented.

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